

Message Text

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43

ACTION EUR-12

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-04 H-02 INR-07 L-03

NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15 USIA-06 SAM-01

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FM AMEMBASSY MOSCOW

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 9164

INFO AMCONSUL LENINGRAD

C O N F I D E N T I A L MOSCOW 15157

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PINT, UR

SUBJ: JEWISH NEW YEAR AT THE MOSCOW SYNAGOGUE

1. JEWISH NEW YEAR'S SERVICES WERE MARKED BY UNCOMMON CONSIDERATION ON THE PART OF SOVIET POLICE. IN CONTRAST TO PREVIOUS YEARS WHEN TRAFFIC WAS DELIBERATELY DIRECTED UP THE STREET ON WHICH THE SYNAGOGUE IS LOCATED, THIS YEAR THE STREET WAS CLOSED ON BOTH FRIDAY NIGHT AND SATURDAY MORNING. SEVERAL SOVIET JEWISH SOURCES REMARKED THAT THE POLICE WERE UNUSUALLY POLITE AND SEEMED ANIMATED BY A DESIRE TO INSURE THAT THE SERVICES WERE NOT MARKED BY ANY INCIDENTS.

2. THE SYNAGOGUE WAS FULL OF BOTH FRIDAY AND SATURDAY SERVICES WITH A SPRINKLING OF FOREIGNERS (BOTH RESIDENT IN MOSCOW AND TRANSIENT). THE PRESIDENT OF THE CONGREGATION TANDETNIK, GENERALLY BELIEVED TO BE A KGB STOOGE, WAS NOT PRESENT. WE WERE TOLD THAT HE HAS RECENTLY BEEN REMOVED FROM OFFICE (PRESUMABLY BY THE KGB) AND HAS BEEN REPLACED BY HIS PREDECESSOR (YE. G. KAPLUN). WE HAVE BEEN UNABLE TO FIND OUT DEFINITELY THE BACKGROUND TO THIS APPARENT CHANGE.

3. SEVERAL JEWISH SOURCES HAVE INDICATED TO US THAT
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NEW YEAR'S EVE FESTIVITIES IN THEIR APARTMENTS TRANS-

PIRED WITHOUT ANY HARASSMENT FROM NEIGHBORS OR THE
POLICE.
MATLOCK

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NNN

Message Attributes

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